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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)  
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/772,193	
	Filing Date	February 4, 2004	
	First Named Inventor	Amber McCrocklin	
	Art Unit	4673	
	Examiner Name	Andrew D. Wright	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	18	Attorney Docket Number	13881-44763

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	Bingham McHale LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	C. John Brannon		
Date	November 15, 2004	Reg. No.	44,557

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: the Patent Application of	)	Before the Examiner:
	)	Andrew D. Wright
Amber McCrocklin, et al.	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 4673
Application No. 10/772,193	)	
	)	Attorney Docket No. 13881-44763
Filing Date: February 4, 2004	)	
	)	Date: November 15, 2004
<b>APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR</b>	)	
<b>BOARDING ANIMALS INTO A BOAT</b>	)	

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the most recent Office Action, dated August 25, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 at line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a device for attachment to a boat for boarding animals thereinto. The device includes an elongated ramp member having a proximal end portion and a central body portion, a support member extending from the proximal end and engagedly abutting a first portion of the boat extending above-the-waterline, a strut extending from the central portion and abutting a second portion of the boat extending below-the waterline, and a gripping assembly connected to the support member for releasably engaging the boat.--